Amendments to the Drawings

The replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figs. 2 and 6 of the original sheets of drawings.

Fig. 2 has been amended to show registry 29 of the client PC 2, and to show user interface 25 of the printer driver 20. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by the drawing changes.

Fig. 6 has been amended to correct the labels for steps S62 and S63.

Attachment: replacement sheets of drawings for Figs. 2 and 6

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-10 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1, 3 and 6 being in independent form.

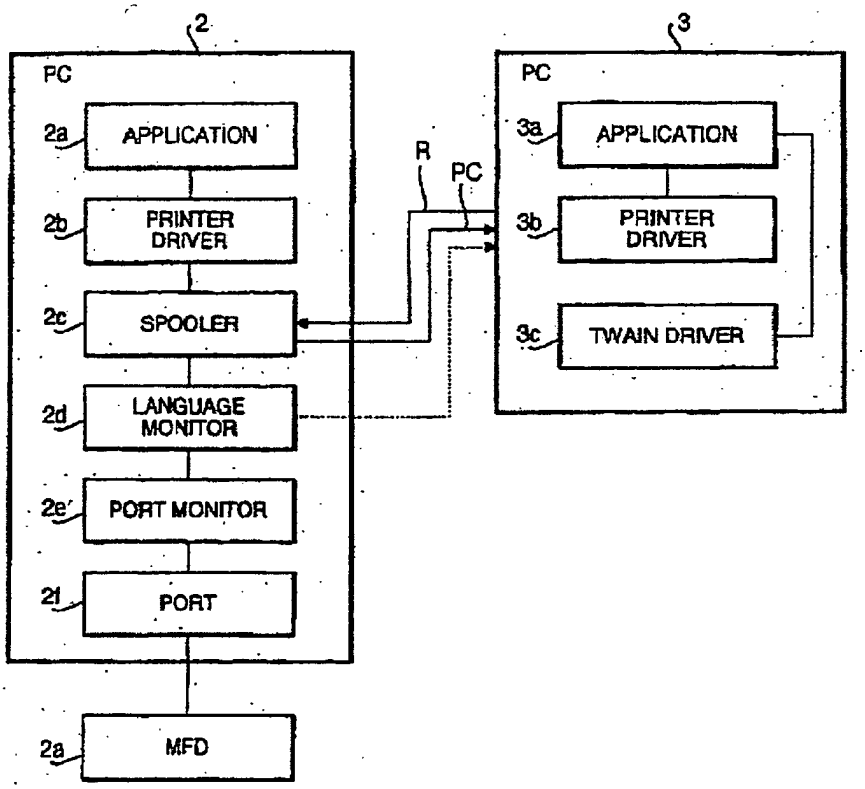
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Kadota (US 2004/0034862 A1). Claims 2, 5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Kadota in view of Ohta (US 2006/0001908 A1).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application of (a) obtaining from a registry of the client computer a two-way communication flag which is set by a user utilizing a user interface of the client computer, (b) determining whether the two-way communication flag is set in a state where the two-way communication is enabled, and if the two-way communication flag is in the state where the two-way communication is enabled, enabling two-way communication regardless of an operating system of the client computer and obtaining status information of the printer via the server computer, (c) obtaining from the registry, in a case where the two-way communication is enabled, printer information set by the operating system of the client computer, and (d) determining whether a two-way flag of the printer information is ON after the printer information is obtained, and in a case where the two-way flag is ON, executing the two-way communication.

Kadota, as understood by applicant, proposes a printing system 100, as shown in Fig. 3 of Kadota, including an MFP (Multi-Function Peripheral) 1 connected to a PC 2 which in turn is connected to a PC 3. The PC 2 has application software 2a, printer driver 2b (driver software for the printer function of the MFP 1), spooler 2c (temporarily spools print data), a language monitor

2d (checks progression of print operation), port monitor 2e (designates a port from which the print data is output), and port 2f to which the MFP 1 is connected. The PC 3 has application software 3a, printer driver 3b (for the printing function of the MFP 1), and TWAIN driver 3c (driver software for the scanner function of the MFP 1).

FIG. 3



In the system proposed in Kadota, when a print command issued by the application software 2a or the application software 3a is transmitted to the spooler 2c of the PC 2 using a program interface (of the application) for the printer function through an RPC (Remote Procedure Call), the MFP 1 is notified that print data is output, the output data is temporarily

spooled by the spooler 2c, and then, based on the transmitted printing command, the port from which the print data is output is designated by the port monitor 2e with the printing progression being checked by the language monitor 2d, and the data is transmitted to the MFP 1 which is connected to the port 2f.

Although Kadota indicates that the operating system may or may not support bi-directional communication between the spooler and the MFP, the approach proposed by Kadota, as understood by applicant, includes provisions for bidirectional communication (using Named Pipe), without regard to whether the operating system supports bi-directional communication (see Kadota, [0166]).

However, Kadota does not disclose or suggest that the PC 2 or PC3 has a user interface through which a user can set a two-way communication flag (to a state indicating that two-way communication is enabled) that is stored in a registry.

Further, Kadota says nothing regarding maintaining a two-way flag in printer information stored in the registry, and in a case where the two-way flag is ON, executing the two-way communication.

Ohta, like Kadota, does NOT disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application of (a) obtaining from a registry of the client computer a two-way communication flag which is set by a user utilizing a user interface of the client computer, (b) determining whether the two-way communication flag is set in a state where the two-way communication is enabled, and if the two-way communication flag is in the state where the two-way communication is enabled, enabling two-way communication regardless of an operating system of the client computer and obtaining status information of the printer via the server computer, (c) obtaining from the registry, in a case where the two-way communication is enabled, printer information set by the

operating system of the client computer, and (d) determining whether a two-way flag of the printer information is ON after the printer information is obtained, and in a case where the two-way flag is ON, executing the two-way communication.

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does ***NOT*** render unpatentable the above-mentioned aspects of the present application.

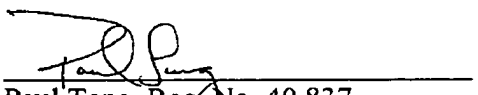
Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 3 and 6, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now allowable, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicant
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400

EXHIBIT A

to

AMENDMENT
(U.S. Application No. 10/578,232)